

Study on Paddy Grain from Axial Flow Rice Thresher

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ABSTRACT

An axial flow rice thresher with drum length of 4 feet was tested to evaluate the performance under different drum speed and feeding rate. The rice variety of Luang Pathan which had 13.6% grain moisture content, 10.2% straw moisture content, 60.6% grain ratio and 71 cm cut crop length was used. Grain output of the thresher was investigated cracked grain and checked the broken grain in milling test grain. From the result of the test, total losses due to broken, unthreshed and blown grain were about 1% when onload drum speed was nearly 600 rpm. The cracked grain ratio and the broken grain ratio in milled grain were increased with the rising up of the onload drum speed. At the onload drum speed of 600 rpm, the cracked and broken grain ratios were about 3% and 6% respectively.

INTRODUCTION

At present, rice threshing practices by mechanical threshers are widely adopted by Thai farmers. The use of rice thresher increases labour productivity (Sukharomana, 1983). It requires less labour input and threshing period than traditional methods. The mechanical threshers used are almost throw-in axial flow type (Chirnakorn, 1990). Whole materials of harvested rice bundles are fed into the thresher and conveyed spirally along the threshing drum axis of the thresher. Grains received from the thresher are ready for selling. The price of grains will be decided by the middle man, purchaser, after the quality of grains were investigated. In case of many broken grains and crack inside grain are founded, the price of the grains will be decreased.

From the testing and evaluation of the axial flow rice thresher with drum length of 4 feet, this paper specially demonstrated the effect of the use of the thresher to the quality of the received grains in term of broken and cracked grain ratios.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Research Materials

1. Rice thresher. An axial flow rice thresher with drum length of 4 feet was used to test at different drum speeds and feeding rates. The thresher was consisted of main component parts and working pattern shown in Figure 1.

Rice bundles arranged on the feeding tray were fed into the threshing chamber through the feeding chute. The threshing drum conveyed them to impact and rub with the concave. Threshed grain was then dropped down through concave opening to the oscillating screen below while straw was forced along the axis of the threshing drum and sent out from the straw outlet.

On the screen, the fallen threshed grain, chaff and foreign materials were exposed to air stream provided by the blower installed under the oscillating screen. Impurities and chaff were blown out from chaff outlet whereas threshed grain dropped down on the screw conveyor to be carried through the main grain outlet. Some threshed grains that blown out together with impurities were trapped inside the apron and retrieved for recycling by the return auger.

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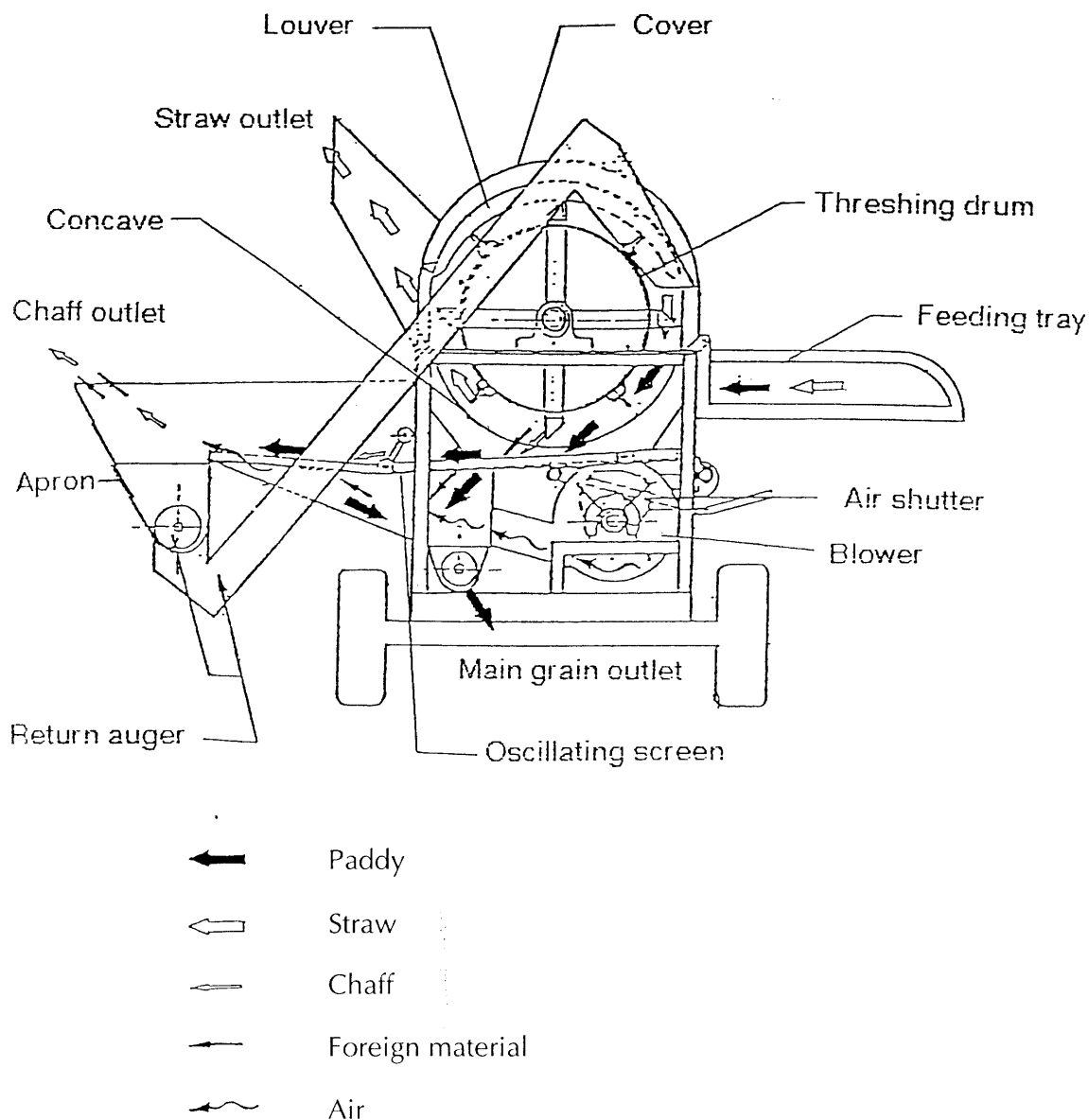


Figure 1 Main component parts and working pattern of AF rice thresher.

2. Rice bundles. The variety of Luang Pathan was used throughout the test. The rice had 60.6% grain ratio, 13.6% grain moisture content (wet basis). 10.2% straw moisture content (wet basis) and 71 cm. cut crop length.

3. Instruments. The test set up for the experiment was shown in Figure 2. Electrical dynamometer (Takachiho Seki model S-4) was used to drive the thresher. The power requirement of the thresher was measured by PS meter (Denshikogyo model TDM-HR-5L) and recorded by recorders (Kyowa model

RTP-600A and Rikadenki model R55M3). Speed of the threshing drum was measured by lighting tachometer (Onosoki model HT-431) and recorded by digital printer (Onosoki model RQ-335)

4. Sample collectors. Threshed grains were collected in bags while straw and chaff were collected by large nets.

5. Grain investigators. Threshed grains from main grain outlet were investigated inside crack grain by x-ray (softex, E-5) of Central Laboratory and Greenhouse Complex (CLGC) and checked broken

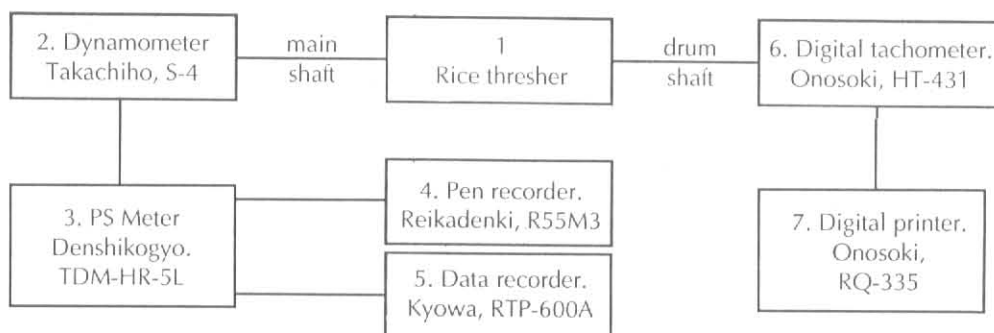
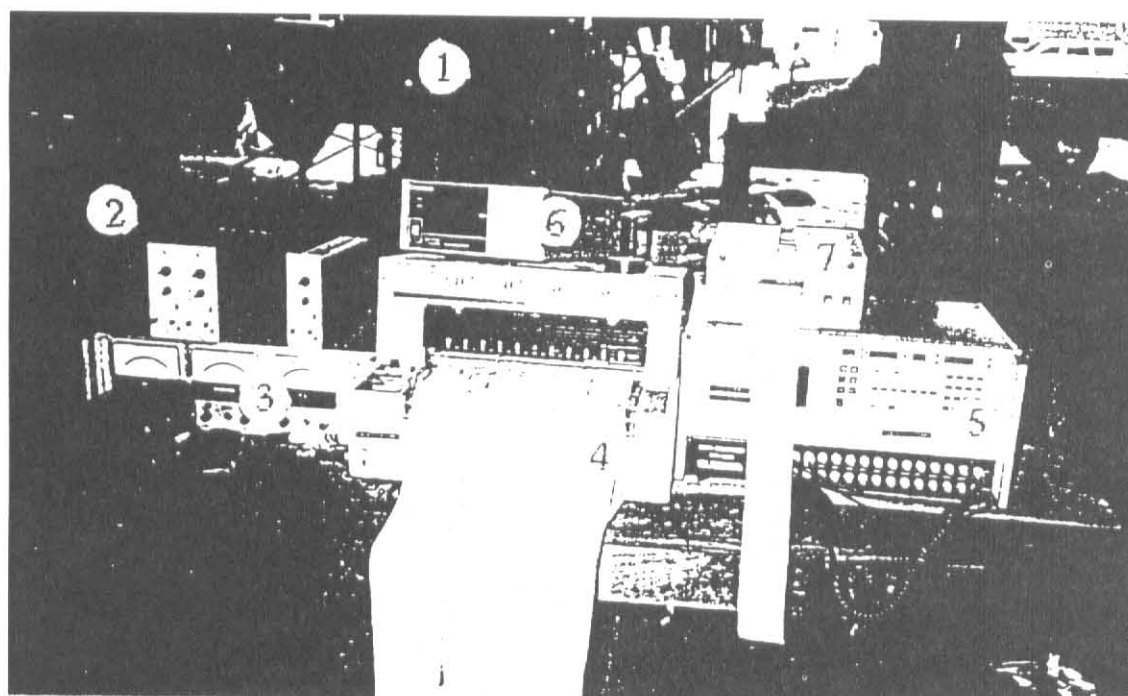


Figure 2 Instruments set up for testing the thresher.

grain from milling machine (Satake Rice Machine Type THU) (Figure 3)

Procedure

Prior to the test, rice conditions and machine details were recorded.

When the thresher was started, the measurements of the speed of dynamometer, threshing drum, oscillating screen, blower and screw conveyors were carried out.

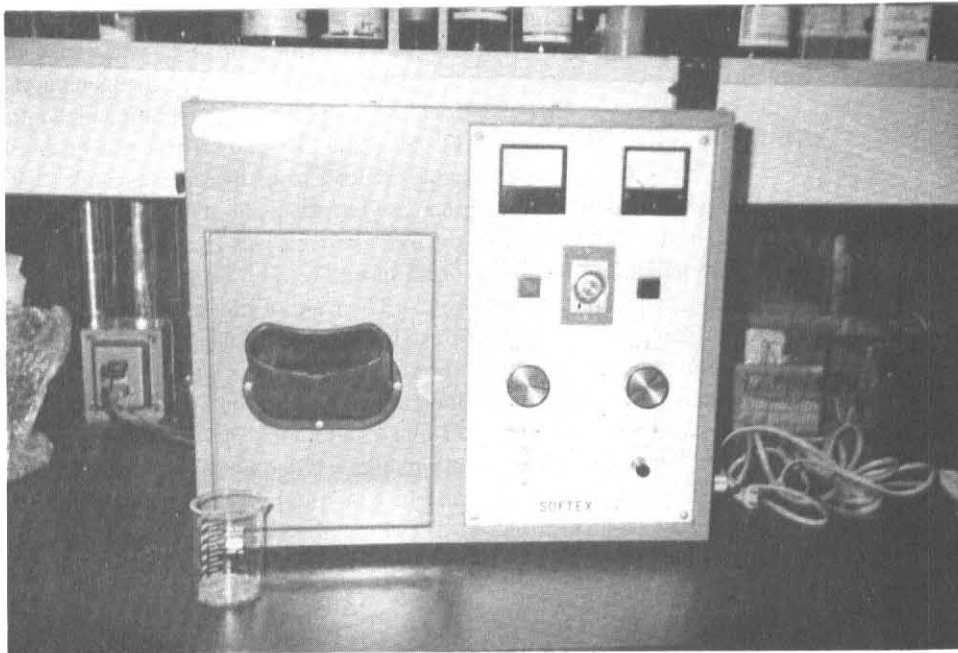
In a test run, a noload drum speed and a feeding rate were predetermined. Then rice bundles were fed at the predetermined rate continuously. During the test run, samples from the main grain, chaff and straw outlets were collected in 20 seconds. The onload drum speed and power requirement of the thresher were also

measured and recorded at the same time.

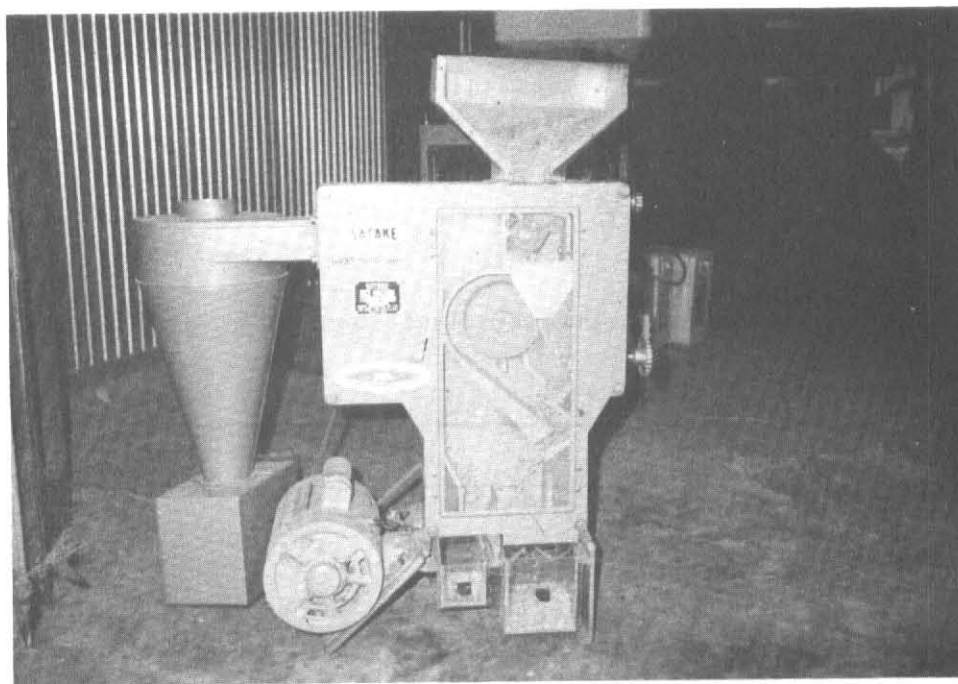
A new test run with other predetermined noload drum speed and feeding rate was carried out when the former test run finished. The noload drum speeds and feeding rates were set up at 500, 550, 600, 650, 700, 750 and 800 rpm and 2600, 3600 and 4800 kg/h. in whole material bases.

After the test, the collected samples from 3 outlets which were good, branches and broken grains were subjected to calculate for determining the efficiency and performance of the thresher (Thai Standard Institute, 1987)

The grains from main grain outlet of each test run were sampled for two groups, 500 g each. The first group was sent to check the inside crack grain by softex x-ray at CLGC. The other group was tested by



3.1 Softex x-ray, E-5



3.2 Rice milling machine
Satake Rice Machine, THU

Figure 3 Equipments for checking quality of grain.

passing through milling machine. The milled grains were separated to good and broken grain for calculation the good and broken grain ratio.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The details of the rice thresher used in the test was shown in Table 1. The result of rice threshing by the axial flow thresher with drum length of 4 feet at onload drum speeds of 420-710 rpm and feeding rates of 2600-4800 kg/h was shown in Table 2. Total loss was about 1% when the onload drum speed was nearly 600 rpm and it was increasing when the onload drum speed was raised up and slow down (Figure 4.) The reason of this thinking as follows, when the onload drum speed was too low the separation loss (grain loss from straw outlet) was high and when the onload drum speed was too high the blower loss (grain blown out from chaff outlet) was high (Figure 5.)

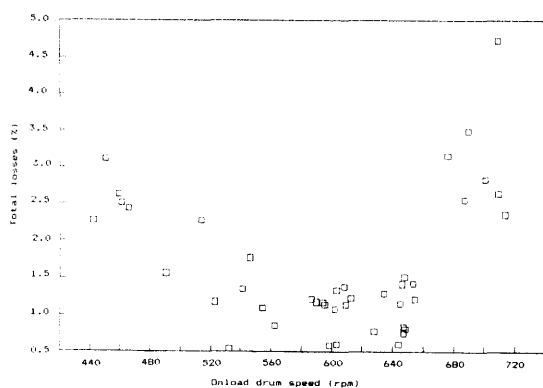


Figure 4 Total losses of 4 feet axial flow rice thresher.

The ratio of cracked grain in the grains received from main grain outlet was varied when drum speed and feeding rate were changed but it tended to increase with the rising up of the onload drum speed (Table 3 and Figure 6). There was no cracked grain when onload drum speed was under 450 rpm. It increased to about 3% at 600 rpm and the maximum cracked grain rate was 7% at about 700 rpm of onload drum speed.

The ratio of broken grain in milled grain received from the milling test was varied when drum speed and feeding rate were changed but it tended to increase with the rising up of the onload drum speed (Table 4 and Figure 7). It was found that the broken grain ratio was about 3% at 440 rpm, 6% at 600 rpm and 11% at 700 rpm of onload drum speed.

From the test, it can be inferred that the speed of threshing drum affects the quality of grain, the ratio of cracked and broken grain. The much more

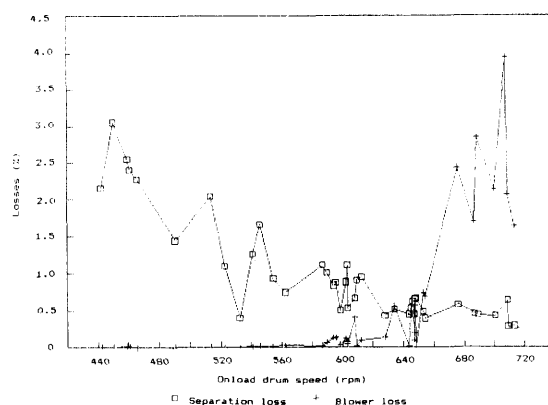


Figure 5 Losses of 4 feet axial flow rice thresher.

Table 1 Specifications of 4 feet axial flow rice thresher.

item	Details
1. Dimension	
- Length, cm.	332
- Width, cm.	254
- Height, cm	266
2. Threshing drum	
- Diameter, cm	49
- Length, cm.	121.9
- Spiketooth (row * no. in row)	8*15
- Clearance under spiketooth, cm.	1.5
3. Concave	0.6 cm. steel rods with 1.5 cm. clearance
4. Oscillating screen	perforated steel plate with 1.5 cm. hole size
5. Blower	Centrifugal type.
6. Adjustment	Air shutters on blowers drum speed
7. Labor requirement	8

Table 2 Determenation of efficieancy, losses, capacity and quality of grain.

Feed Rate	Drum Noload	speed Onload	Total grain output	onload torque	onload power	Seperation loss	Blower loss	damaged grain	Total loss	Branch grain	Threshing eff.	Cleaning eff.	Grain capacity	Grain specific capacity	Cracked grain	Milled Good grain	Grain Broken grain	
kg/h	rpm	rpm	kg/h	kg.m	PS	kW	%	%	%	%	%	%	kg/h	kg/h/kW	%	%	%	
2600	500	442.4	972.04	4.20	4.98	3.66	2.16	0.01	0.09	2.27	6.56	93.44	91.57	950.93	259.62	0	96.66	3.34
2600	500	459.5	752.54	3.45	4.83	3.55	2.56	0.02	0.05	2.63	8.30	91.70	99.41	733.11	206.37	0	96.56	3.44
2600	500	465.8	765.49	3.30	4.53	3.33	2.27	0.00	0.16	2.44	7.08	92.92	91.23	748.05	224.52	2	94.34	5.66
2600	550	513.8	787.37	3.30	5.43	3.99	2.03	0.01	0.23	2.28	5.42	94.58	91.50	771.26	193.12	2	95.76	4.21
2600	600	554.3	774.13	3.60	6.26	4.60	0.93	0.02	0.14	1.09	6.91	93.09	91.30	766.79	166.54	1	94.76	5.24
2600	600	562.4	873.55	3.45	6.19	4.55	0.74	0.03	0.08	0.85	5.72	94.28	91.88	866.79	190.39	2	94.85	5.15
2600	650	602.0	852.78	3.60	7.09	5.21	0.88	0.12	0.08	1.08	4.43	95.57	94.03	844.27	161.90	0	95.98	4.02
2600	650	609.2	861.11	3.45	6.79	4.99	0.90	0.01	0.21	1.13	3.97	96.03	93.21	853.21	170.85	0	95.33	4.67
2600	700	594.0	1596.01	4.50	9.36	6.88	0.83	0.13	0.21	1.17	3.08	96.92	94.65	1580.71	229.61	3	92.50	7.50
2600	700	612.4	1376.52	4.50	9.36	6.88	0.95	0.10	0.18	1.23	4.95	95.05	92.94	1362.15	197.86	3	93.57	6.43
2600	700	643.8	969.99	4.20	8.30	6.10	0.45	0.02	0.12	0.60	4.31	95.69	93.39	965.40	158.14	2	94.97	5.03
2600	700	647.3	1009.44	4.20	8.23	6.05	0.45	0.10	0.28	0.83	4.40	95.60	92.16	1003.87	165.84	3	92.61	7.39
2600	700	648.0	909.00	4.20	8.53	6.27	0.66	0.00	0.14	0.81	3.53	96.47	95.14	902.97	143.93	5	93.54	6.46
2600	700	653.0	711.15	4.20	7.77	5.71	0.49	0.73	0.20	1.42	2.73	97.27	94.49	702.47	122.92	6	88.98	11.02
2600	750	608.0	1103.98	4.28	9.66	7.10	0.66	0.40	0.31	1.37	2.42	97.58	96.22	1092.29	153.74	2	94.60	5.40
2600	800	700.2	1039.60	4.05	8.91	6.55	0.42	2.13	0.28	2.83	2.49	97.51	94.54	1013.05	154.59	2	93.58	6.42
2600	800	708.6	689.59	4.28	9.58	7.05	0.63	3.93	0.16	4.72	5.58	94.42	93.76	658.13	93.40	3	92.11	7.89
2600	800	709.0	907.65	3.98	8.68	6.38	0.28	2.07	0.29	2.63	2.42	97.58	95.12	886.38	138.84	7	90.39	9.61
3600	500	450.2	810.35	3.90	5.28	3.88	3.06	0.01	0.04	3.12	5.32	94.68	92.98	785.44	202.25	0	95.51	4.49
3600	500	460.9	689.59	3.60	4.83	3.55	2.41	0.01	0.09	2.50	6.26	93.74	91.67	672.92	189.42	0	94.29	5.71
3600	550	490.4	999.43	3.60	5.74	4.22	1.44	0.01	0.11	1.56	6.73	93.27	90.03	984.96	233.30	1	96.29	3.71
3600	600	541.1	1142.74	4.05	7.09	5.21	1.26	0.02	0.06	1.34	7.66	92.34	86.78	1128.16	216.34	2	94.91	5.09
3600	600	545.9	927.89	4.05	6.94	5.10	1.65	0.02	0.08	1.76	4.23	95.77	94.37	912.32	178.73	3	94.94	5.06
3600	650	595.3	702.85	4.05	7.40	5.44	0.87	0.14	0.12	1.13	6.07	93.93	92.05	695.74	127.83	2	94.12	5.88
3600	650	598.6	1154.95	3.90	7.40	5.44	0.50	0.04	0.05	0.59	4.47	95.53	93.21	1148.77	211.07	1	95.06	4.94
3600	700	589.6	1183.60	4.65	9.36	6.88	1.00	0.07	0.10	1.17	4.13	95.87	93.51	1170.91	170.08	2	92.97	7.03
3600	700	603.0	959.07	4.50	9.21	6.77	1.11	0.08	0.14	1.32	3.56	96.44	94.32	947.73	139.91	1	95.07	4.93
3600	700	627.9	858.18	4.65	9.25	6.80	0.43	0.13	0.22	0.78	1.90	98.10	97.72	853.36	125.43	6	91.59	8.41
3600	700	644.7	1075.72	4.50	8.91	6.55	0.53	0.43	0.19	1.15	1.51	98.49	97.53	1065.39	162.57	4	92.34	7.66
3600	750	645.8	1253.12	4.35	9.06	6.66	0.62	0.66	0.12	1.41	4.43	95.57	94.15	1237.02	185.64	2	94.57	5.43
3600	750	647.4	1164.16	4.35	9.81	7.22	0.65	0.56	0.29	1.50	3.80	96.20	94.12	1150.08	159.40	4	93.50	6.50
3600	800	689.1	895.38	4.13	9.06	6.66	0.44	2.85	0.20	3.49	4.06	95.94	94.70	865.88	129.94	4	90.59	9.41
3600	800	709.4	633.14	3.90	8.60	6.33	1.03	0.00	0.21	1.24	3.41	96.59	95.18	626.61	99.06	5	88.83	11.17
4800	600	522.7	1356.25	4.35	7.40	5.44	1.09	0.00	0.07	1.17	3.28	96.72	94.85	1341.35	246.45	2	96.91	3.09
4800	600	532.5	1303.91	4.20	7.17	5.27	0.40	0.00	0.14	0.55	3.39	96.61	94.97	1298.58	246.25	1	95.99	4.01
4800	650	586.5	966.75	4.20	7.70	5.66	1.10	0.03	0.08	1.21	3.71	96.29	94.13	955.82	168.77	1	94.31	5.69
4800	650	603.3	1026.50	3.75	7.40	5.44	0.54	0.05	0.02	0.60	4.02	95.98	93.87	1020.51	187.50	0	91.90	8.10
4800	700	634.0	1049.43	3.60	8.45	6.21	0.51	0.55	0.22	1.28	4.18	95.82	93.61	1038.27	167.06	1	92.55	7.45
4800	700	647.3	1145.43	4.20	8.30	6.10	0.44	0.19	0.12	0.75	3.47	96.53	94.39	1138.18	186.44	4	94.07	5.93
4800	750	654.4	1363.20	4.35	9.81	7.22	0.39	0.68	0.14	1.21	2.11	97.89	97.44	1348.56	186.90	5	93.17	6.83
4800	750	675.9	1058.48	4.40	9.36	6.88	0.58	2.43	0.16	3.16	4.63	95.37	94.18	1026.66	149.13	3	94.60	5.40
4800	800	686.7	1490.41	4.58	11.00	8.09	0.46	1.69	0.40	2.55	2.49	97.51	96.04	1458.28	180.25	6	93.09	6.91
4800	800	713.6	1253.12	4.35	9.81	7.22	0.29	1.62	0.44	2.35	2.93	97.07	95.17	1229.16	170.36	7	90.76	9.24

Table 3 Cracked grain ratio of 4 feet AF rice thresher (by x-ray).

Feed rate kg/h	Onload drum speed rpm	Cracked grain %				Cracked grain reg. %
2600	442.4	0	Regression Output:			-0.25
2600	459.5	0	Constant		-8.10	0.05
2600	465.8	2	Std Err of Y Est		1.49	0.17
2600	513.8	2	R Squared		0.46	1.02
2600	554.3	1	No. of Observations		43.00	1.74
2600	562.4	2	Degrees of Freedom		41.00	1.88
2600	594.0	3				2.44
2600	602.0	0	X coefficient (s)	0.02		2.58
2600	608.0	2	Std Err of Coef.	0.00		2.69
2600	609.2	0				2.71
2600	612.4	3				2.77
2600	643.8	2				3.32
2600	647.3	3				3.38
2600	648.0	5				3.40
2600	653.0	6				3.49
2600	700.2	2				4.32
2600	708.6	3				4.47
2600	709.0	7				4.48
3600	450.2	0				-0.11
3600	460.9	0				0.08
3600	490.4	1				0.60
3600	541.1	2				1.50
3600	545.9	3				1.59
3600	589.6	2				2.36
3600	595.3	2				2.46
3600	598.6	1				2.52
3600	603.0	1				2.60
3600	627.9	6				3.04
3600	644.7	4				3.34
3600	645.8	2				3.39
3600	647.4	4				3.39
3600	689.1	4				4.13
3600	709.4	5				4.49
4800	522.7	2				1.17
4800	532.5	1				1.35
4800	586.5	1				2.31
4800	603.3	0				2.60
4800	634.0	1				3.15
4800	647.3	4				3.38
4811	654.4	5				3.51
4800	675.9	3				3.89
4800	686.7	6				4.08
4800	713.6	7				4.56

Table 4 Good and broken grain ratio from milling test of the grain output.

Feed rate kg/h	Onload Drum speed rpm	Milling Good grain %	Test Broken grain %				Regression	
							Good grain (Reg.) %	Broken grain (Reg.) %
				Good grain				
2600	442.4	96.66	3.34	Regression Output:			96.64	3.36
2600	459.5	96.56	3.44	Constant	104.59		96.33	3.67
2600	465.8	94.34	5.66	Std Err of Y Est	1.41		96.22	3.78
2600	513.8	95.79	4.21	R Squared	0.49		95.35	4.65
2600	554.3	94.76	5.24	No. of Observations	43.00		94.63	5.37
2600	562.4	94.85	5.15	Degress of Freedom	41.00		94.48	5.52
2600	594.0	92.50	7.50				93.91	6.09
2600	602.0	95.98	4.02	X Coefficient (s)	-0.02		93.77	6.23
2600	608.0	94.60	5.40	Std Err of Coef.	0.00		93.66	6.34
2600	609.2	95.33	4.67				93.64	6.36
2600	612.4	93.57	6.43				93.58	6.42
2600	643.8	94.97	5.03				93.02	6.98
2600	647.3	92.61	7.39				92.95	7.05
2600	648.0	93.54	6.46				92.94	7.06
2600	653.0	88.98	11.02				92.85	7.15
2600	700.2	93.58	6.42				92.00	8.00
2600	708.6	92.11	7.89				91.85	8.15
2600	709.0	90.39	9.61				91.85	8.15
3600	450.2	95.51	4.49				96.50	3.50
3600	460.9	94.29	5.71				96.30	3.70
3600	490.4	96.29	3.71				95.77	4.23
3600	541.1	94.91	5.09				94.86	5.14
3600	545.9	94.94	5.06				94.78	5.22
3600	589.6	92.97	7.03				93.99	6.01
3600	595.3	94.12	5.88				93.89	6.11
3600	598.6	95.06	4.94	Broken grain			93.83	6.17
3600	603.0	95.07	4.93	Regression Output:			93.75	6.25
3600	627.9	91.59	8.41	Constant	-4.59		93.30	6.70
3600	644.7	92.34	7.66	Std Err of Y Est	1.41		93.00	7.00
3600	645.8	94.57	5.43	R Squared	0.49		92.98	7.02
3600	647.4	93.50	6.50	No. of Observations	43.00		92.95	7.05
3600	689.1	90.59	9.41	Degrees of Freedom	41.00		92.20	7.80
3600	709.4	88.83	11.17				91.84	8.16
4800	522.7	96.91	3.09	Coefficient (s)	0.02		95.19	4.81
4800	532.5	95.99	4.01	Std Err of Coef.	0.00		95.02	4.98
4800	586.5	94.31	5.69				94.05	5.95
4800	603.3	91.90	8.10				93.74	6.26
4800	634.0	92.55	7.45				93.19	6.81
4800	647.3	94.07	5.93				92.95	7.05
4800	654.4	93.17	6.83				92.83	7.17
4800	675.9	94.60	5.40				92.44	7.56
4800	686.7	93.09	6.91				92.25	7.75
4800	713.6	90.76	9.24				91.76	8.24

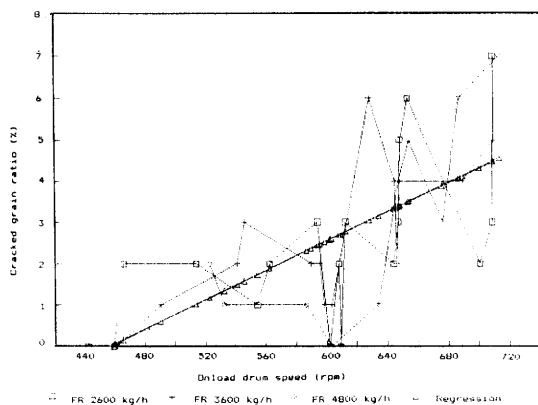


Figure 6 Cracked grain ratio in the grain output of 4 feet axial flow rice thresher.

high speed of threshing drum used, the worse quality of grain received because the higher drum speed produced the higher impact and rubbing action. Regarding to the total loss, cracked and broken grain ratio of this test the appropriate unload drum speed should be between 580 to 640 rpm.

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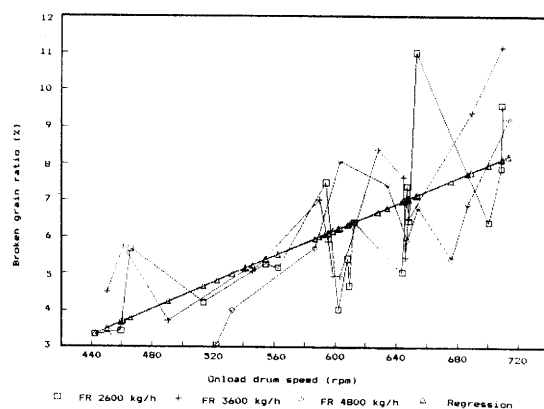


Figure 7 Broken grain ratio in the milled grain of the grain output.

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